MARVEL
010
GILLEN
WALKER
DEERING
FABELA
STAR WARS
DOCTOR APHRA

THE ENORMOUS PROFIT

Part II

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra has recovered and reactivated the Rur Crystal, an artifact with the consciousness of an ancient Jedi and powerful levels of technopathy, and she's selling to the highest bidder.

Aphra throws an auction, hosting some of the biggest names in the black market. Meanwhile, her droid accomplices BeeTee and Triple-Zero start to get restless. The stakes of the auction are rising....

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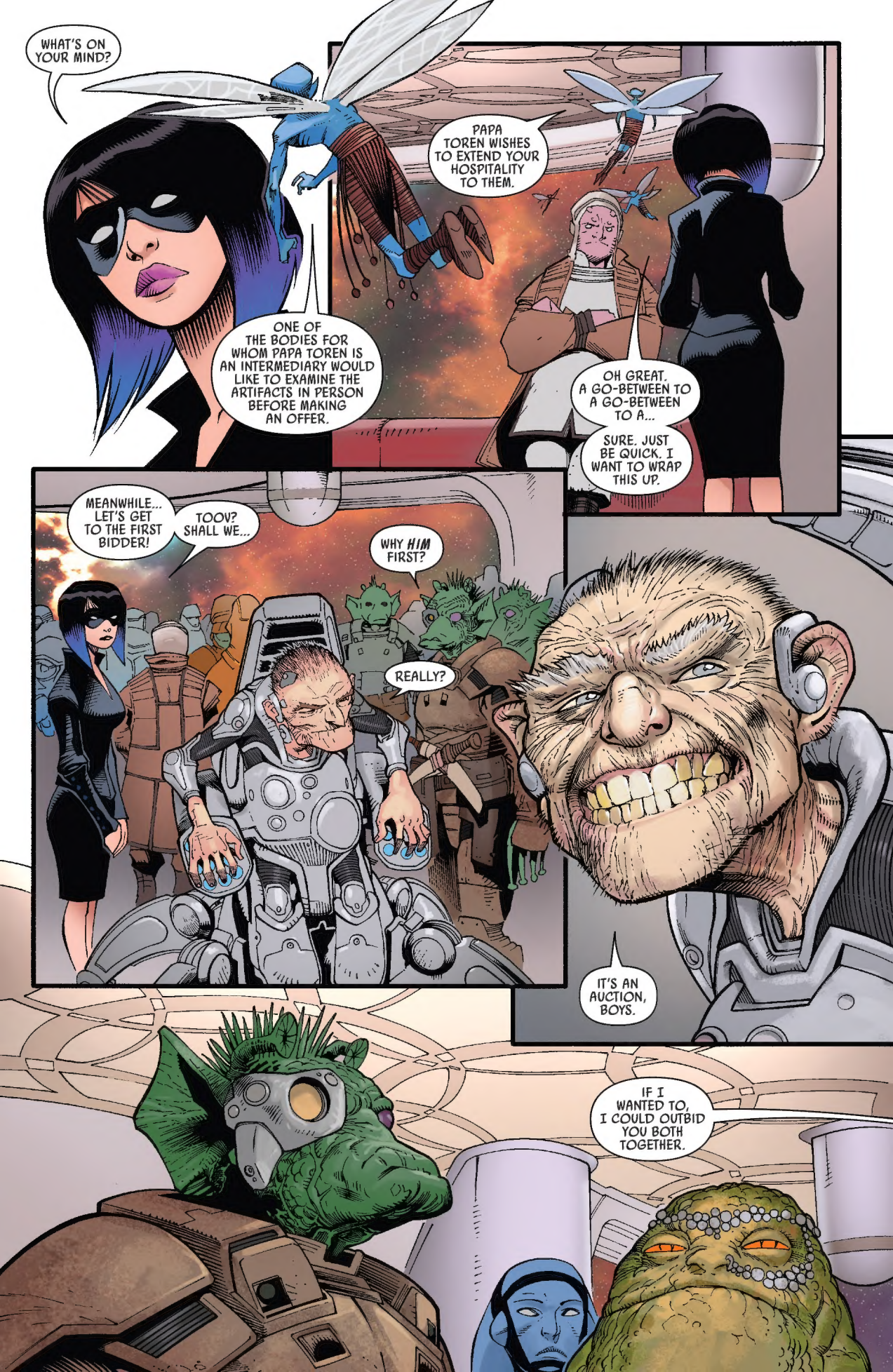
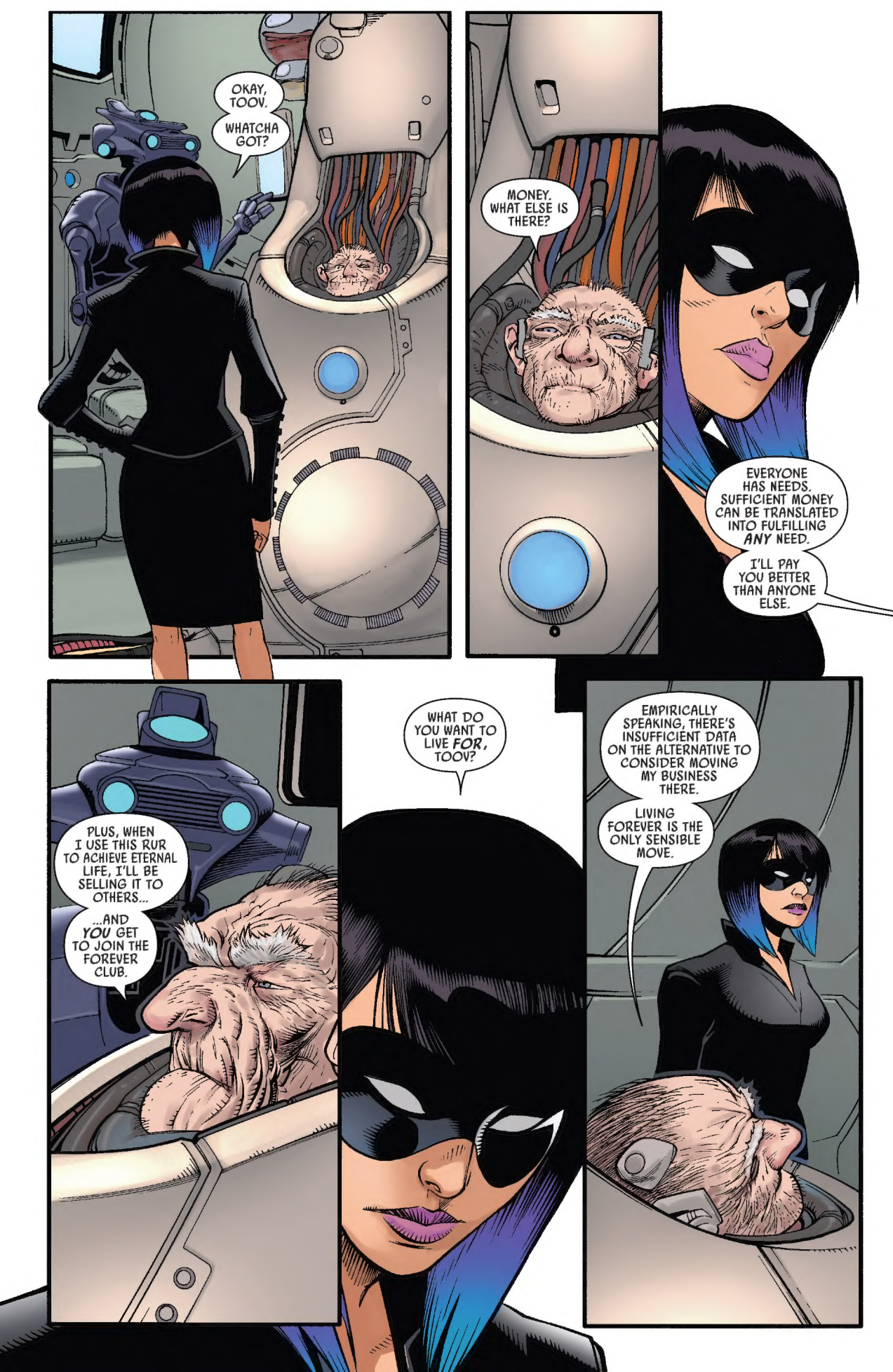
MASTER APHRA. THEY'RE ALL WAITING...
SO THEY ARE.
LET'S GET RICH.

WE WISH TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PATIENCE!
I'VE SCHEDULED PERSONAL MEETINGS WITH ALL THOSE WHO WISH TO FORWARD SERIOUS OFFERS.
THEY WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY.
UNTIL YOURS COMES AROUND, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
BY WHICH I MEAN, RELAX, NOT TRY AND TRANSFORM THIS CHARMING RESORT INTO A FIGHTING PIT. I HAVE TO PAY FOR THE CLEANING.
LOOKING AT YOU, EZARAA...
WE DO NOT CARE FOR YOUR OBSERVATIONS! WE WILL CRUSH YOUR--
PAPA TOREN HAS A QUESTION...


WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
ONE OF THE BODIES FOR WHOM PAPA TOREN IS AN INTERMEDIARY WOULD LIKE TO EXAMINE THE ARTIFACTS IN PERSON BEFORE MAKING AN OFFER.
PAPA TOREN WISHES TO EXTEND YOUR HOSPITALITY TO THEM.
OH GREAT. A GO-BETWEEN TO A GO-BETWEEN TO A...
SURE. JUST BE QUICK. I WANT TO WRAP THIS UP.
MEANWHILE... LET'S GET TO THE FIRST BIDDER!
TOOV? SHALL WE...
WHY HIM FIRST?
REALLY?
IT'S AN AUCTION, BOYS.
IF I WANTED TO, I COULD OUTBID YOU BOTH TOGETHER.

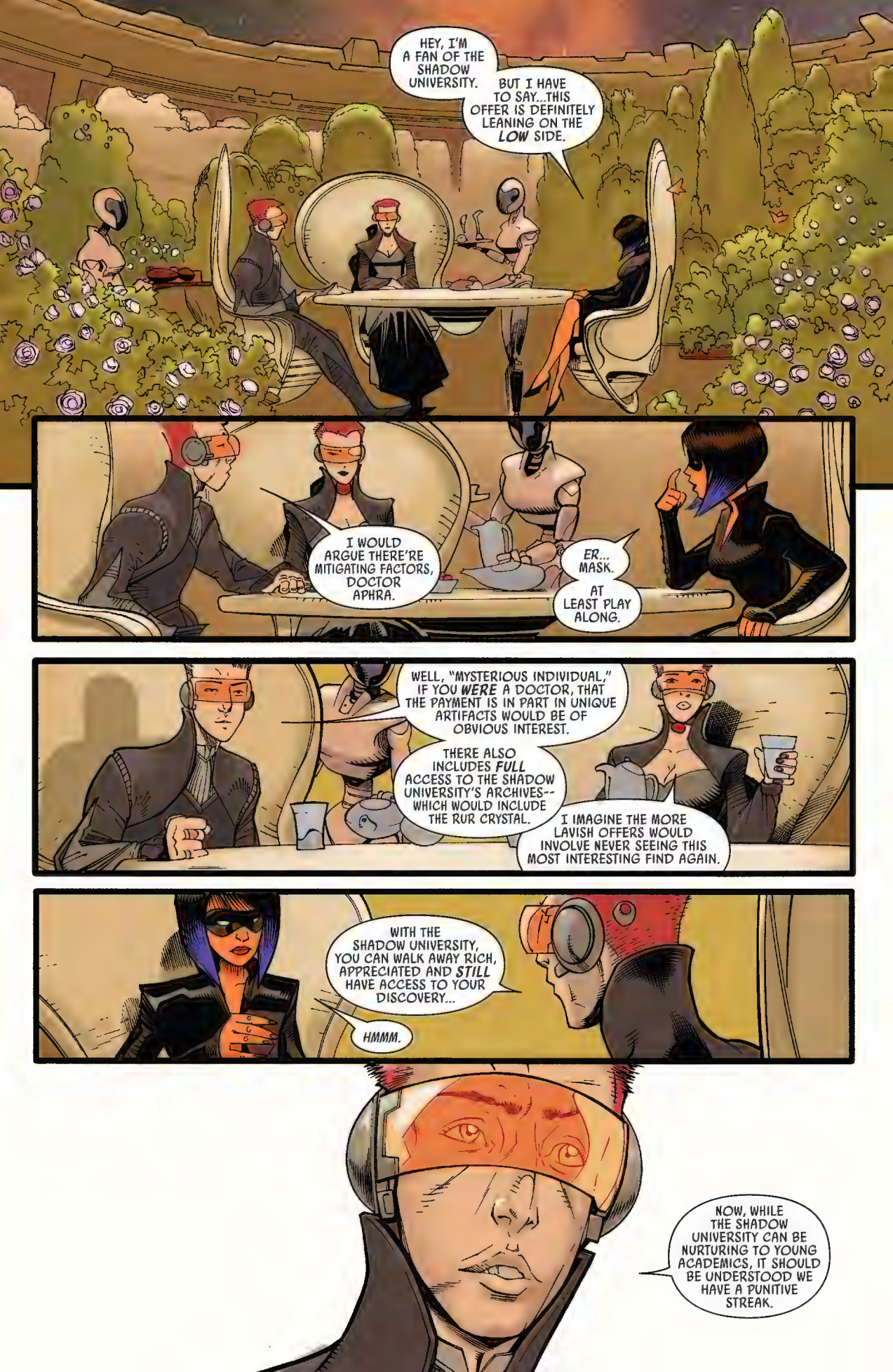

OKAY, TOOV.
WHATCHA GOT?
MONEY. WHAT ELSE IS THERE?
EVERYONE HAS NEEDS. SUFFICIENT MONEY CAN BE TRANSLATED INTO FULFILLING ANY NEED.
I'LL PAY YOU BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
PLUS, WHEN I USE THIS RUR TO ACHIEVE ETERNAL LIFE, I'LL BE SELLING IT TO OTHERS...
...AND YOU GET TO JOIN THE FOREVER CLUB.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LIVE FOR, TOOV?
EMPIRICALLY SPEAKING, THERE'S INSUFFICIENT DATA ON THE ALTERNATIVE TO CONSIDER MOVING MY BUSINESS THERE.
LIVING FOREVER IS THE ONLY SENSIBLE MOVE.

RIGHT--NEXT IS...OKAY, BEFORE I SAY, DON'T FIGHT--I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO BREAK YOU TWO UP.
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE MAKING IT EASY FOR YOU.
<WE WISH TO MERGE OUR OFFERS.>
<OUR ORGANIZATIONS HAVE COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.>*
UNEXPECTED, BUT UNDERSTOOD.
*TRANSLATED FROM HUTTESE.
ARE YOU SURE?
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
IF WE DON'T WIN, NO PROBLEM.
<BUT IF OUR OFFER TRIUMPHS...>
WE BLEED OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS...
<...AND TAKE IT.>

YEAH, FIXING UP GUESTS AFTER MY WOOKIEE SHOOTS THEM IS ALL PART OF THE HOSPITALITY PACKAGE.
HE'S ALMOST READY TO BE REACTIVATED...
SO, AS I'M BEING KIND... I TRUST THE CYBAN FRONT IS MAKING AN OFFER WORTH MY TIME?
STATEMENT: WE REPRESENT VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.
THEY WISH THIS ARTIFACT DESTROYED.
A DROID'S POSITION IN THIS GALAXY IS OFTEN MARGINAL. TECHNOPATHY WOULD ONLY REDUCE THAT.
OUR FINANCIAL OFFER IS CONSIDERABLE. ALL DEBTS WITH THE ORGANIZATIONS I REPRESENT WOULD ALSO BE SETTLED.
STATEMENT ENDS.

RUR'S NOT JUST DANGEROUS. YOU COULD LEARN SO MUCH.
TO THROW THAT AWAY...
STATEMENT: IT IS NOT WORTH THE RISK.
I... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
I'LL FINISH THE REPAIRS AFTER ALL THIS IS OVER. I NEED TO SEE EVERYONE ELSE...
BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEP!
BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEP!
BLEEP! BLEEP!
OH, ALL RIGHT, BEETEE.
LET'S DO THAT.

THE EZARAA WILL RULE THE UNIVERSE. IT IS OUR DESTINY.
FOR DELIVERING THE RUR SENTIENCE TO US, YOU WILL RECEIVE 0.00001% OF OUR IMPERIAL REVENUE, FOR YOU AND YOUR NEXT TEN DESCENDANTS.
YOU KNOW, WHEN I SAID I WAS LOOKING FOR OFFERS WITH A STRING OF ZEROES, I MEANT AT THE END, NOT AT THE START...
FOOLISH QUASI-SENTIENT FLESH! WHEN THE EZARAA DOMINION STRETCHES TO THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE OUTER RIM, THAT WILL BE WEALTH BEYOND IMAGINING!
BUT BE WARNED! IF YOU DEFY US, YOU AND ALL YOUR KIN WILL BE NAMED FOREVER HERETICS, TO FIND A NEW LIFE OF ENDLESS PAIN IN OUR TORTURE PLANTS!
WOW. HARDCORE.
WE'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
THE EZARAA DOMINION IS JUST THE PLANET EZARAA, ISN'T IT?
TWO CONTINENTS ON EZARAA TO BE PRECISE.
I'M NOT SURE WHO'S DUMBER, THE EZARAA OR ME FOR INVITING THEM.


HEY, I'M A FAN OF THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY.
BUT I HAVE TO SAY...THIS OFFER IS DEFINITELY LEANING ON THE LOW SIDE.
I WOULD ARGUE THERE'RE MITIGATING FACTORS, DOCTOR APHRA.
ER... MASK.
AT LEAST PLAY ALONG.
WELL, "MYSTERIOUS INDIVIDUAL," IF YOU WERE A DOCTOR, THAT THE PAYMENT IS IN PART IN UNIQUE ARTIFACTS WOULD BE OF OBVIOUS INTEREST.
THERE ALSO INCLUDES FULL ACCESS TO THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY'S ARCHIVES--WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE RUR CRYSTAL.
I IMAGINE THE MORE LAVISH OFFERS WOULD INVOLVE NEVER SEEING THIS MOST INTERESTING FIND AGAIN.
WITH THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY, YOU CAN WALK AWAY RICH, APPRECIATED AND STILL HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR DISCOVERY...
HMMM.
NOW, WHILE THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY CAN BE NURTURING TO YOUNG ACADEMICS, IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD WE HAVE A PUNITIVE STREAK.

WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE OF THE RECENT PROBLEMS WITH YOUR DOCTORATE.
WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF WHAT CAUSED IT.
WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF HOW THE EVIDENCE WAS BURIED.
AND WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF HOW IT CAN BE UNEARTHED.
APHRA CAN WALK AWAY RICHER WITH THE OTHER OPTIONS...
...BUT DOCTOR APHRA ONLY WALKS AWAY BY ACCEPTING OURS.
GUYS. I THINK I'VE HEARD OF THIS "DOCTOR APHRA."
ISN'T SHE A SELFISH MONSTER WHO'D DO ANYTHING FOR A CREDIT?
...AND ANYONE WHO THINKS OTHERWISE ALWAYS ENDS UP REGRETTING IT.

...AND THAT CONCLUDES OUR DEMONSTRATION. YOUR SHUTTLE IS READY FOR YOUR DEPARTURE...
LEAVING ALREADY, TOREN?
PAPA TOREN'S BUSINESS IS COMPLETE. HIS CLIENTS HAVE STUDIED THE ARTIFACT...
...THE XONTI BROTHERS CAN MAKE THEIR OWN DECISION.
GGRRAAHRRAAHH
NO!

TRIPLE-ZERO! BEETEE!
STOP KRRSANTAN!
ZZZZAP!
AGAIN! HARDER!
ZZZZAAAP!

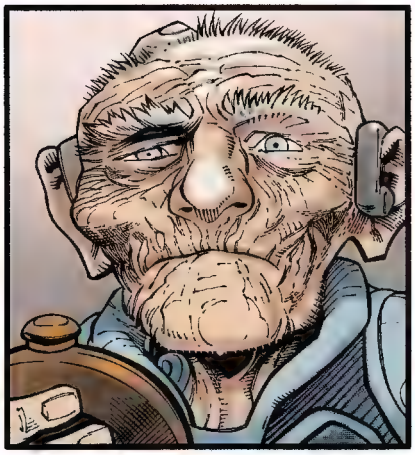
HMMF.
GET HIM TO MEDICAL...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE... WELCOME.
OKAY, WHAT DO THE GALAXY'S PREMIER GLADIATOR TRAINERS HAVE TO OFFER ME?
A BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY IN THE FIELD OF ENTERTAINMENT.
LOOK AT KTHOO-RA. WE SPENT A YEAR TRAINING HIM. SAME WITH YOUR UNGRATEFUL FURFACE. THAT IS A LOT OF INVESTMENT FOR A LIMITED CAREER.
ANDROIDS ARE GOOD FOR FILLING THE FIELD OUT, BUT NOT REALLY FUN TO WATCH...
YOU'RE LUCKY TRIPLE-ZERO ISN'T HERE.
SO YOU WANT TO TURN RUR INTO A STAR, WITH A BODY THAT CAN DIE OVER AND OVER AND OVER...
THAT'S ONE WAY TO TAKE IT. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF IDEAS. WE'LL SPLIT PROCEEDS FIFTY-FIFTY WITH YOU. IT'S A PARTNERSHIP.
NOT HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY UP FRONT...BUT THE UNIVERSE IS PRETTY BLEAK RIGHT NOW...
...AND PEOPLE ARE GOING TO PAY A LOT FOR A DISTRACTION...

OH, GREAT.
WAKE HIM UP.
I KNOW--
GHHGGHH. GHHHHHHHH!
AH, YES. I SPEAK THROTTLED HUMAN...
"I KNOW YOU OWE THEM YOUR OWN SOMEWHAT BRUTAL INTERPRETATION OF A 'LIFE DEBT' FOR WHAT THEY DID TO YOU."
GHHGGHH!
GHHHHHHHH!
"YOU'LL PAY IT BACK AFTER... BUT WE NEED TO GET PAID FIRST!"

I GUESS HE'S SOFTENING IN HIS OLD AGE...
ANY UPDATES?
THE SHADOW UNIVERSITY HAS INCREASED ITS BID SIGNIFICANTLY.
HOW DOES IT MEASURE UP?
IN PURE VALUE, A LITTLE OVER A THIRD OF TOOV'S.
OKAY. GET EVERYONE TOGETHER.
I'VE MADE MY DECISION.

PLEASE TAKE A DEVICE.
NO, IT WON'T HURT YOU, MORE'S THE PITY...
GGRRRRH.
JUST KEEP IT CALM, BIG GUY.
LET'S KEEP IT SHORT. I'VE HAD TIME TO CONSIDER THE OFFERS, AND WE'RE FLATTERED.
YOU CLEARLY ALL UNDERSTAND WHAT A UNIQUE PIECE RUR IS.
THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE...

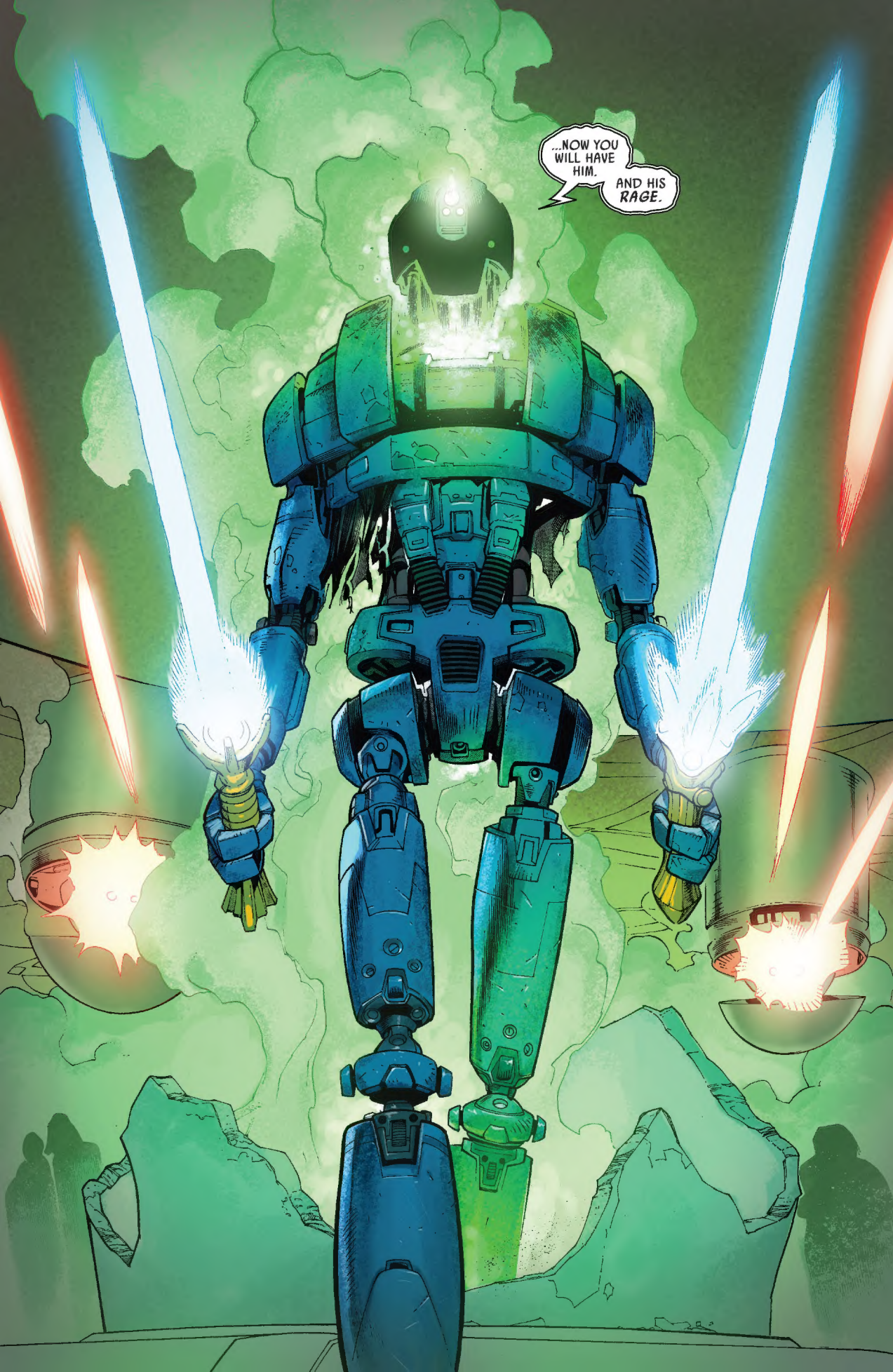
...HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED.
KLLK



THE CRYSTAL IS YOURS.
WE'LL ARRANGE SHIPPING.

EVERYONE ELSE SHOULD LEAVE.
BEEN FUN, GUYS...
BLEEP!
YES, WHILE SHE'S NOT TALKING TO US...
...LEAVING IS STILL NOT A BAD IDEA.
THANKS FOR EVERYONE'S TIME, AND--
KLLK!
APHRA...
WE DON'T NEED THE CRYSTAL GIVEN TO US NOW.
IN FACT, WE'D RATHER WAIT FOR--
I KNOW! I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING!

YOU CAME FOR IMMORTAL RUR...
KLLK!
KLLK!
KLLK!


...NOW YOU WILL HAVE HIM.
AND HIS RAGE.

DOCTOR'S NOTES

You've seen her team up with Sith Lord Darth Vader, escape a rebel prison, and even fight side by side with Luke Skywalker himself! Now, Doctor Aphra is tackling your letters!

Dear Marvel,

I've been greatly enjoying the "Screaming Citadel" storyline. I just read *Doctor Aphra* #7 and feel like a kid again waiting until Wednesday for the next issue of *Star Wars*. All the characters are spot-on. If you can make someone that's been buying Marvel comics weekly for almost 40 years feel young again, you're doing something right! Carry on and may the Force be with you.

Jerry Crowe
Outer Rim (Cleveland)

That's awesome! Thanks for reading, Jerry! Hope you've stuck around to check out even more of Aphra's adventures!

Hi!

Bria LaVorgna saw the picture of my Doctor Aphra tattoo on Facebook and suggested I send pictures to this email. I'm clearly a big fan of Aphra and I can't wait to see more of the character!

-Madeline Anderson
(Tattoo by Phantom Cat Tattoo)

WOW!!! This may quite possibly be one of the coolest *Star Wars* tattoos I've ever seen! And, no. I'm not biased. Obviously.

Dear Marvel,

I love what's going on with Aphra and her amazing adventures! As for the comics, is there any chance we'll see her encounter familiar faces from the original Marvel *Star Wars* run? I am particularly fond of Lumiya – she was downright terrifying, in terms of her story/abilities and I think she could give Aphra a run for her money.

MTFBWY
@jmbishopjr

Lumiya was definitely a fun character, for sure! Who knows what new or old characters we'll be seeing in the future! Keep reading to find out!

Hello there, Marvel team!

I just want to say that I like this comic series very much. Aphra is definitely a highlight of the new canon! Let's not forget Triple-Zero and BeeTee! They are a great addition to the *Star Wars* universe, too! Aphra's team has a very interesting mix of personalities and I hope to see more of these guys in the future!

Sincerely,
Anatolij

I agree. What's not to love about two adorable droids who just want to cause mayhem and murder? And don't forget Black Krrsantan! Wookiees need love, too! Or else they'll tear off some limbs...

Dear Marvel,

Thanks to all of the brilliant minds that helped develop Doctor Aphra and the creation of her own comic series. I fell in love with her character the same way I did with Han Solo. She embodies everything I love in people and *Star Wars*. *Star Wars* is a huge part of my life and will always be. The fans set the bar high on what we expect, and you all have delivered admirably.

May the Force be with you always.
Andrew LaCosse

Thank you so much for your kind words on *Doctor Aphra*. Everyone on the creative team loves her dearly and hopes we get to keep telling her story for many, many more issues. Er, so long as she doesn't get herself killed...

Dear SW Editors,

I'm writing to let you know how much I am enjoying the *Doctor Aphra* series and how the character brought me back into the world of comics after a 20-year hiatus. Now I am the first person at my LCS when new *Doctor Aphra* issues are released. Big Kudos for creating such a fascinating character and for bringing a lost reader back into the fold! I hope the *Doctor Aphra* series has a longer run than volume 1 of the 600+ run of *Uncanny X-Men!*

John Ferer

Doctor Aphra certainly is special, isn't she? We're so excited to hear that she brought you back into the comics scene! We hope you've enjoyed her adventures in *Darth Vader*, *Star Wars*, and even the crossovers, too! There can never be enough Aphra!

That's it for this week, readers! Be sure to write your own letter to StarWars@Marvel.com and mark "OK to Print." Until then, may the Force be with you all!

-Heather

DOCTOR APHRA
NEXT ISSUE:

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."